Serial No.: 10/772,186
Group Art Unit: 2613

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

- Please amend the first paragraph in the Background of the Present Invention section, which begins on page 1, as follows:

Systems that seek to acquire very wide field of view (e.g. ~~360°~~ 360°) images are significant for a number of applications in both still and motion picture capturing and display. One such system employs a camera rotating around the horizontal of its focal plane used for capturing still panoramic photographs. Many images are taken, ranging from of the order of about 7 for consumer photographs to more than 100 for professional panoramas. The camera is typically mounted on a tripod, with the pan axis centered on the horizontal center of the focal plane. Parallax errors are reduced as the number of images is increased.

- Please amend the third paragraph in the Background of the Present Invention section, on page 1, as follows:

In other systems, a single camera coupled with a domed, spherical, or toroidal section mirror is used. The camera is usually mounted in such systems above the mirror so that the camera can see a e.g. ~~360°~~ 360° surround band around the mirror. The mirror may be placed on a conference room table to provide a view of everyone sitting around a meeting table or may be placed on a tripod for panoramic landscape pictures.

- Please amend the first paragraph in the Summary of the Present Invention section, which begins on page 2, as follows:

~~In one~~ One aspect of the present invention provides a system for displaying a wide field of view video image of a location. The system comprises a plurality of location cameras for placement at the location. The location cameras capture the wide field of view video image as a plurality of individual video images that together cover the desired field of view. The system also comprises a distance sensor unit. The distance sensor unit senses distances of closest objects in one or more overlap areas between field of views of the neighboring location cameras. The system further comprises a display unit for displaying the plurality of individual video images to a user for creating a visual experience of the location based on the sensed distances to the closest object.

- Please amend paragraph 8 in the Detailed Description of the Embodiments section, on page 4, as follows:

Fig. 1B shows a schematic drawing of a top view of the surrogate device 100. This drawing illustrates how the four cameras, e.g. 108, 110 together capture ~~a 360°~~ 360° field of view around the surrogate devices head 102. Objects are located around the surrogate 100, including objects 124 to 127 at different distances in overlap regions 128 to 131 of field of views of adjacent cameras.

- Please amend paragraph 16 in the Detailed Description of the Embodiments section, on page 6, as follows:

Consider instead a geometry 400 shown in Fig. 4, where the field of view of the cameras 402, 404 is widened to ~~143°~~ 143°. Here, the user will see two copies of a person 406 standing in the overlap region 408 of the field of views of the cameras 402, 404, one projected on each of adjacent display wall at the user's location. While this is an improvement over not seeing the person at all, it is still less than desirable in most situations. For example, if the two copies of the person are presented, this introduces errors in preserving the gaze of both the user and the remote person.

- Please amend paragraph 30 in the Detailed Description of the Embodiments section, on page 9, as follows:

As distances to the closest objects change during the capture of the individual video images, the horizontal scaling may be continually adjusted in real-time, if desired. It will be appreciated that a number of different approaches to modifying the horizontal scale can be employed. ~~Onee~~ One approach will be described below for the example embodiment. The pixel column of the desired left and right edges of the imagery on the screen is calculated, and a single horizontal scale is computed. In this approach scale transition artifacts would be limited to the seam between screens, which already has a number of artifacts due to the screen discontinuity. Any artifacts from a transition in a horizontal scale should be less evident there. The desired left and right edges of the projected image can be found from trigonometry.